

## Message Text

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS LONDON 19543

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS ON GENEVA TALKS, DECEMBER 3

1. THE PAPERS REPORT THAT BRITAIN IS NOW PREPARED TO ACCEPT A DIRECT ROLE IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. THERE IS ALSO A REPORT OF NEW BITTERNESS AT THE TALKS, AGGRAVATED BY THE PRESENCE OF GUERRILLA LEADERS.

2. TIMES DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT: "THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS NOW READY TO PLAY A 'DIRECT ROLE' IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR RHODESIA. THIS STATEMENT BY MR. CROSLAND...HINTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S THINKING IS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED INTERIM ADMINISTRATION.... WHAT THIS MEANS IS UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS READY TO APPOINT A BRITISH

GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN SALISBURY--THOUGH OUT OF DEFERENCE FOR WHITE FEELING HE MIGHT BE CALLED BY SOME OTHER TITLE--IF THE CONFERENCE CAN AGREE ON THE HANDOVER OF POWER TO THE BLACK MAJORITY."

3. GUARDIAN DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT PATRICK KEATLEY:

"THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. CROSLAND, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, HAS CAUTIOUSLY INDICATED TO AFRICAN NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ACTUAL RUNNING OF RHODESIA UNDER THE PROPOSED INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

THE OFFER BREAKS NEW GROUND, ALTHOUGH IT IS UNLIKELY TO MEET THE MILITANT DEMANDS OF THE AFRICAN DELEGATES AND OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE FIVE FRONT LINE AFRICAN REPUBLICS."

4. FINANCIAL TIMES AFRICA CORRESPONDENT BRIDGET BLOOM:

"THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS READY TO PLAY A DIRECT ROLE IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA ALTHOUGH THE NATURE OF THIS BRITISH PRESENCE WOULD DEPEND ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT."

FINANCIAL TIMES GENEVA CORRESPONDENT: "RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS ARE SHARPLY DIVIDED ON THE ROLE THAT BRITAIN SHOULD PLAY IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE. THIS BECAME CLEAR AS DELEGATION LEADERS... LAUNCHED INTO NEARLY TWO HOURS OF SOMETIMES ACRIMONIOUS DISCUSSION ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT."

5. GUARDIAN STORY FROM GENEVA HEADLINED: "ROW ERUPTS OVER 'TERRORIST' SLUR AT GENEVA TALKS."

TIMES GENEVA CORRESPONDENT ALAN MCGREGOR: "(THE PRESENCE OF RHODESIA GUERRILLA LEADERS AT THE CONFERENCE) WAS DOUBTLESS A FACTOR IN ANOTHER OF THE EMOTIONAL FLASHPOINTS NOW BECOMING COMMONPLACE."

6. DAILY TELEGRAPH CORRESPONDENT DAVID ADAMSON IN GENEVA: "DELEGATES TO THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE REACHED A NEW PEAK OF INCOMPATIBILITY YESTERDAY, BUT PUT IN THEIR MOST CONSTRUCTIVE DAY'S WORK SINCE THEIR FIRST MEETING UNCLASSIFIED

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MORE THAN A MONTH AGO.... LIFE IN GENEVA HAS LONG LOST WHATEVER INITIAL GLAMOUR IT MAY HAVE HAD FOR THE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS, AS THE GUERRILLAS WILL SOON LEARN. IN FACT, DISENCHANTMENT IS SUCH THAT THERE IS A STRONG MOVE TO HAVE THE INEVITABLE POST-CHRISTMAS SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE HELD ELSEWHERE."

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## Message Attributes

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